

MR. NEWMAN: I'd first like to start out by reiterating what Commissioner Potter had to say. We have facilities down in Carbon and Emery County, the BDEQ (phonetic), the Carbon Convention Center that could have held these. And I would appreciate it, if you're going to discuss our livelihoods, that you go to where we live instead of avoiding us. (Applause.) Since this administration has started, there's been over 17 regulations with the intent of killing coal. Not good regulations like SMARA that has helped clean up our environment, but with the specific purpose to bankrupt us. Two of them have hit the Supreme Court. One of them is the clean power plant, which as we all know has been put on hold. And the other was a stream buffer rule, which was voted to be unconstitutional. The purpose of the BLM is land management. It is not power plant management. We have the EPA, we have the Division of Air Quality and Water Quality for that. Your focus is on the land. When the coal has been sold, to get your return from it and to make sure that it is environmentally responsible in how it is used. This is an overreach in going into what should be the EPA's job and other people's jobs, because the climate is a bigger thing. EPA has already claimed that they are in charge of that. They are the Environmental Protection Agency. California, as we know, is a wonderful state that doesn't have a single coal plant. They get all their power from us. However, based on population, if we want to go on carbon dioxide, they are 12.8 percent of the national population base to make it equal, while Utah is 1.7 percent. The problem is not the coal mines, but if we are -- we are now going not at a fair market value but a price that is perceived costs only validated through a political agenda. As federal leases become unaffordable, companies are going to relocate to state and private leases, in which they are mostly eastern, which have a higher sulfur, higher ash, and lower BTU. So the opposite of what you want to do is what you will accomplish. My recommendation, though, is that you reform this moratorium three years is a joke. I couldn't take three years off work to reevaluate my life and have them pay me, but mimic what state and private industry are doing while -- and successfully, you will lower your rates to what there are -- I'll quickly finish. This is desperately needed when we in the industry are losing our jobs due to politically-inflated prices aimed at putting us on the street. If the BLM is able to learn from these efficient groups, I suggest the BLM allows the state to manage these lands and decrease its overly-inflated ranks and drain upon the taxpayers. (Applause.)